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16 September 1947

INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY BOARD

APPOINTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC ATTACHES

Memorandum by the Secretary

Pursuant to a request by the Director of Central Intelligence, the enclosed memorandum is circulated herewith for consideration of the Intelligence Advisory Board at an early meeting of that Board.



Secretary, N.I.A.

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APPOINTMENT OF SCIENTIFIC ATTACHES

1. NIA Directive No. 7 (Coordination of Collection Activities) failed to allocate the responsibility for the collection of scientific intelligence. It left to each agency that part related to its respective needs. Committee and Intelligence Advisory Board discussions during the preparation of the program indicated that future attention would be given to the scientific and economic fields.

2. Since adoption of NIA Directive No. 7, the Atomic Energy Commission and the Joint Research and Development Board have designated the Central Intelligence Group as the agency to furnish their intelligence support.

3. Although the Intelligence Division, War Department General Staff, and A-2, Air Forces, have informally stated their capability of making satisfactory collection of scientific information within their own respective fields, all the intelligence agencies have recognized the urgent need for improved collection in the broad field of scientific information related to national security. The impending dissolution of threatens to reduce the effectiveness of the Army's field collection agencies in matters concerning nuclear energy.

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4. The new responsibilities of the Central Intelligence Group cannot be met with the existing facilities for the collection of scientific intelligence even though they may be considered as adequate to certain agency needs. Solution of the problem is necessary.

a. The appointment of Scientific Attaches to U. S. Missions in countries having the greatest scientific potential appears to be essential.

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b. It is believed that such Attaches should be furnished by one of the agencies. The services performed would be for the common benefit of all agencies.

c. Scientific Attaches would be attached to U. S. Embassies (Legations) and function in a similar manner to other attaches.

d. These Attaches would work in close collaboration with the other attaches who would pass to them all requests for information on scientific matters beyond their capabilities to handle.

5. From informal inter-agency conferences, it is believed that the following countries have the greatest scientific intelligence potential:

Russia
Poland
Roumania
Bulgaria
Yugoslavia
Czechoslovakia
Hungary

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

China

[Redacted]

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6. The Director of Central Intelligence therefore requests a discussion of the problem and adoption of an over-all policy at an early meeting of the Intelligence Advisory Board so that the details of a program can be developed.

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